(e) what steps have already been taken or proposed to be taken for the timely replacement of such vessels keeping in view the security of the country;

(f) what concrete steps have been taken to build up our own capability for naval construction with a view to enable the country to become self-sufficient;

(g) what is the latest position about the plan to build an aircraft carrier with foreign design/assistance at Kochi; and

(h) how is the costly infrastructure created for the construction of HDW submarines at Mazagaon Dock, Ltd. being utilised ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (h) Force levels of the Indian Navy are considered with reference to the Perspective Plan and Annual Plans drawn up for the purpose. These, in turn, take into account the geostrategic environment, threat perceptions and the availability of budgetary resources. Replacement of Naval ships is a continuing process. It is not in the interest of National security to furnish the details.

Attack on Indian Peace Keeping Force in Somalia

2584. SHRI HIPHEI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to certain reports indicating that Indian peace keeping troops will be attacked by militants when the former will leave Somalia;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken adequate measures to avert the eventuality;

(d) whether Indian peace keeping troops were attacked by militants despite adequate measures taken by Government; and

(e) if so, the reasons thereof and action taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) . (a) to (e) No confirm reports have been received indicating that the Indian troops will be targetted during withdrawal from Somalia. However, some apprehensions were expressed by the UN that the withdrawing contingents from Somalia may get involved in a fighting withdrawal. Since the responsibility of deduction of troops lies with the UN, the matter was taken up with the UN authorities who assured that all measures would be taken to ensure a safe withdrawal. The Government of India are also providing assitance to the UN in deinduction of the Indian troops on the basis of request received from UN H qrs.

There has been no attack on our troops by militants in Somalia during the deinduction. However, in an incident of cross fire between two rival militia factions a round from Granade Projectile launcher landed on a barrack of the Indian contingent near the Mogadishu airport. five personnel sustained injuries. The condition of all the of them is stable.

Samba spy case

2585. SHRI K. R. MALKANI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the so-called Samba spy case as reported in the 'Indian Express', dated the 4th December, 1994;

(b) whether it is a fact that a number of army officers were falsely implicated in the alleged spying case ;

(c) what are the amends made to the harassed officers; and

(d) what are the penalties meted out to their tormentors ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of reply to part (b).